

# **RADIOACTIVE WASTE ADVISER APPROVAL BOARD MEETING**

**3 OCTOBER 2011**

**CARRON SUITE, SEPA EDINBURGH OFFICE**

## **NOTE OF MEETING**

**Attendees:** Jim Gemmill (SEPA), David Bell (NIEA), Joe McHugh (EA), Martin Murray (EA), Chris Englefield (EA), Adam Stackhouse (SEPA), Angela Wright (SEPA)

**Apologies:** Linda Peake (NIEA)

### **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Jim Gemmill welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2.0 Approval Board Induction**

Angela Wright gave the Approval Board a presentation on the Radioactive Waste Adviser scheme and how it is planned to implement it.

### **3.0 Chair and Secretariat functions**

JG agreed to take the chair for the first year of the Approval Board after which it will pass to either the Environment Agency or Northern Ireland Environment Agency and be rotated on an annual basis. It was agreed that if the nominated Chair is not available for a particular meeting that another member of the Approval Board will chair the meeting.

### **4.0 Invitation to industry representatives to the RWA Approval Board**

It was agreed that representatives from the nuclear and non nuclear industry should be invited to become advisory members of the Approval Board through NILG, SNNILG and SULG with the aim that they will be in place by 1 December 2011.

Consideration will be given to having an independent member of the Board and SEPA will look at arrangements for similar types of Board and the type of person that might be suitable.

**Action 1.1 SEPA to review membership of similar types of Board to the RWA Approval Board and the type of person that might be suitable as an independent member.**

## **5.0 Post grandfather rights assessment mechanism**

A discussion was held on the advantages and disadvantages of a full assessment of competence being carried out for individuals once their grandfather rights have expired. It was agreed that when grandfather rights end on 30 June 2016 the responsibility for assessing competence of RWAs will be on an approved Assessing Body.

The discussions concluded that a full assessment of competence is needed for those RWAs with grandfather rights when those rights end. This will be the same mechanism as for new RWAs demonstrating competence. Thereafter a separate renewal process can be implemented for all.

## **6.0 Grandfather rights for SEPA, EA and NIEA staff**

The EA is introducing a new scheme for Radioactive Waste Compliance Advisers that will require broadly similar competences to Radioactive Waste Advisers.

SEPA and NIEA expressed the view that staff from the Agencies should not be awarded grandfather rights.

It was agreed that we should enforce paragraph 4.6.1 of the Environment Agencies' Statement on Radioactive Waste Advisers rigorously, i.e. an individual must have given advice to sites, within the past 5 years, not just regulated sites that need such advice. Application for grandfather rights under Mechanism B or C will only be successful if based on giving advice to the permit holder, not regulating against the permit. The Board thought that there would be very few people in regulatory bodies who would be eligible for grandfather rights

## **7.0 RWA grandfather rights certificate**

Chris Englefield provided a draft grandfather rights certificate and it was approved for use by the Approval Board.

## **8.0 RWA Approval Board Work**

A review of the work that the Approval Board needs to do in the next year was carried out and includes: determination of application(s) from candidate Assessing Body(ies), determination of applications for Corporate Radioactive Waste Advisers, reviewing the Approval Board's constitution, keeping the Statement and Syllabus under review and developing procedures for assessing applications from candidate Assessing Bodies and Corporate Radioactive Waste Advisers.

It was agreed that applications from Assessing Bodies will open on 1 November 2011 and that applications for Corporate RWAs will open around four months after that, subject to progress with the application(s) from Assessing Bodies.

#### **9.0 Disciplinary procedures**

A discussion was held on what disciplinary procedures might be needed by the Approval Board and any Assessing Body for removing approval or certification.

#### **10.0 AOB**

It was agreed that the note of this meeting should be posted on the RWA website.

The appeals process in the Approval Board constitution was discussed and it was agreed that it should be amended so that in the first instance appeals are dealt with by the Approval Board secretariat and if that does not resolve the issue then further appeal should be made to the Approval Board.

**Action 1.2 AW to amend the Constitution to reflect the amended appeals process.**

#### **11.0 Date and location of future meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Approval Board will be held in London in February 2012.

**Action 1.3 EA to arrange a venue for the meeting and AW and CE to liaise on appropriate dates for the meeting.**

The meeting after that will be held in October 2012 – venue and date to be decided at the next meeting.